

HOUSE RESOLUTION 333

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the honorees of the *Tri-State Defender's* Third Annual Women of Excellence Awards.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to recognize those exemplary events that bring great honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Women of Excellence High Tea is one such estimable event, to be held in Memphis April 30, 2010, when the *Tri-State Defender* will induct its third class of fifty honorees for the Women of Excellence Awards; and

WHEREAS, owned by Real Times Media, the *Tri-State Defender* newspaper has been in operation for fifty-eight years in Memphis; Bernal Smith II is its President and Publisher, and Phyllis Fickling is its General Manager; and

WHEREAS, the awards reception is sponsored by AT&T, Comcast, FedEx, Methodist Healthcare, St. Francis Hospital, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and parent company Real Times Media and will honor fifty outstanding African-American women for their civic contributions and career achievements; and

WHEREAS, among the 2010 honorees are Yvonne B. Acey, associate director of Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc. and an educator for Memphis City Schools; Victoria Artis, director of customer financial services for Pfizer, Inc.; Sharon Barnett-Myers, global health advisor for the Spine and Biologics Division of Medtronic Sofamor Danek; Judith Williams Black, director of public relations for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Ruth Woodard Burkes, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter; Linda F. Carter, managing director of human resource services and diversity for FedEx Express; nonagenarian real estate entrepreneur Orangella Cogger-Harris of New Philadelphia Missionary Baptist

Church; Sharon L. Coleman, CEO of Ritzee's Florist; and The Honorable Lois DeBerry, state representative, District 92 of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious group also includes C. C. Drayton, senior assistant city attorney for the City of Memphis; Huggetta Dudley, CEO and president for Stragistics Technology, Inc.; Dr. Barbara Duncan-Cody, MD, owner of OBGYN Specialties; Naomi Dyson, owner for Mustard Seed & Company; Dr. Sheila Flemming-Hunter, PhD, vice-president for academic affairs at Rust College; Suzanne Roberts Foster, president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Memphis Alumnae Chapter; and Dr. Andrea Henry, DDS, founder and CEO of The Smile Spa; and Gina Higgins, Esq., principal of Higgins & Johnson Law Office; and

WHEREAS, sharing in this honor are Laurita Jackson, president of Memphis Chemical & Janitorial Company; Melonie Johnson, vice president of finance for Harrah's Casino; Sally Johnson, president & owner of Sally's Hair Gallery; Ursula J. Jones, Esq., president of Preferred Title & Escrow LLC; Dr. Yvonne Robinson Jones, professor emeritus of English and International Education for Southwest Tennessee Community College; Carol Winfield Jones, deputy district engineer for project management and the chief, programs and project management division for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Denise Keys-Johnson, PhD, a retired Memphis City Schools principal and an educator for the Turrell (Ark.) School District; and Vanecia Belser Kimbrow, Esq., founder and president of Community Equity & Title PLLC and principal in the Law Offices of Vanecia Belser Kimbrow; and

WHEREAS, also among the estimable honorees are Karen Malone, vice president of retail learning and performance (corporate training) for First Tennessee Bank; Pamela D. Marshall, chief of staff for the Shelby County Mayor's Office; Audra Melvin, director of patient financial services for Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED); Dr. Vivian Gunn Morris, professor of education and assistant dean for faculty and staff development for the College of Education at University of Memphis; Charlie Nelson, director of fundraising and volunteers for Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA); Mary Jo Palmer, director for campus child care centers at Southwest Tennessee Community College; Dr. Nieika G. Parks, MHA, PhD, director of coordinated school health for Memphis City Schools; Christy Poindexter, President and

Founder of High Calling for Women, Inc.; and Nisha Powers, owner/principal of Power Hill Design LLC; and

WHEREAS, additional members of the third class of Women of Excellence are Brenda K. Reddick, CPA, CIA, MBA, assistant manager of residential customer care for Memphis Light Gas & Water; Linda Reid, director of administration & business development for Memphis Depot Business Park; Beverly C. Robertson, president of the National Civil Rights Museum and principal of TRUST Marketing and Communications Consortium; Rev. Marilyn Sasportas Robinson, senior vice president at St. Francis Hospital and co-pastor of Saint Andrew AME Church; Lucy Shaw, founder and principal of Lucy Shaw and Associates; Rhonda F. Spencer, first lady of New Direction Christian Church and co-owner and CEO of Wash & Cuts hair salon; Beverly Clark Stephens, ordained elder and first lady of Golden Gate Cathedral; Elaine Lee Turner, civil rights activist and co-founder of Heritage Tours; Dr. Dellwyn Turnipseed, DMD, owner of The Dental Connections; Dr. Sandra Yvonne Chambers Vaughn, PhD, associate professor and coordinator of the Political Science Department at Rust College; and Johnnie Walker, executive director of the Memphis & Shelby County Music Commission and founder of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Music & Entertainment, Inc. (NABFEME); and

WHEREAS, this distinguished list culminates with Dr. Waletha Wasson, DDS, associate professor of endodontics and operative dentistry for University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC); Camille S. Wheeler, RN, BSN, CPN, of LeBonheur Children's Medical Center; Dr. Sharon J. Wheeler, director of advancement services for Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation; Dr. Willie Mae Willett, EdD, retired principal and educational consultant for Memphis City Schools; Delories J. Williams, director of workforce development for the Greater Memphis Chamber; and Dr. Robin J. Womeodu, MD, chief medical officer for Methodist University Hospital and adjunct associate professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body finds it appropriate to join the *Tri-State Defender* and the good people of Memphis in honoring these remarkable Women of Excellence who serve as inspirations to their respective professions and communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the honorees of the *Tri-State Defender's* Third Annual Women of Excellence Awards and congratulate them upon this truly special occasion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.